



PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

EX PARTE SNOW

Application for Patent

Filed June 22, 1999

Application No. 09/338,286

FOR:

Processing Platform in a Gaming Machine

REPLY BRIEF

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail on September 19, 2007 in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Signed: _____

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STATUS OF CLAIMS

There are a total of 8 claims pending in this application, namely claims 10, 11, 15, 16 and 20-24. No claims have been allowed. Claim 10 is independent. Claims 11, 15, 16 and 20-24 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 10. Claims 1-9, 12-14 and 17-19 have been canceled during prosecution.

Claims 10, 11, 15, 16 and 20, 21 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6, 071,190 (Weiss) in view of U.S. Patent no. 5, 788, 509 (Byers).

Claims 22 and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6, 071,190 (Weiss) in view of U.S. Patent no. 5, 788, 509 (Byers) in further view of Newtons Telecom Dictionary page 751 the UART.

All rejections of all claims are appealed in this brief. In particular, the rejections with respect to each of claims 1, 11 and 16 are appealed with respect to specific elements contained directly within each of these claims.

GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

(A) Claims 10, 11, 15, 16, 21 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6, 071,190 (Weiss) in view of U.S. Patent no. 5, 788, 509 (Byers).

(B) Claims 22 and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6, 071,190 (Weiss) in view of U.S. Patent no. 5, 788, 509 (Byers) in further view of Newtons Telecom Dictionary page 751 the UART.

The following supplemental arguments serve to supplement the Appeal Brief entered July 26, 2005.

ARGUMENT [Supplemented]

In rejecting the claims, the Examiner, in Examiner's Answer, mailed December 1, 2006 states,

"at best, the first (secure) processing area (20), more fully depicted in Figure 6, which shows a "main board" (164) could equate to a "Motherboard." However, the Examiner does not see how Appellant can assert the same with regards to the second (open architecture) processing area (60), comprises a processor board (252) with no mention of the processing board being a "mother board" or a "main board." For these reasons alone, the Examiner maintains the combination of Weiss (US patent 6,071, 190) in view of (Byers et al. US patent 5,788,509 taken as a whole to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of Appellant's invention renders the claim obvious.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with Examiners interpretation of the prior art. Applicant asserts that in Weiss, main board 164 in FIG. 6 and processor board 252 in FIG. 7, irrespective of what they are called in Weiss, each meet the definition of a motherboard and would be recognized by one in skill of the art as a "motherboard."

To elaborate why Applicant makes this assertion, Applicant first provides two definitions related to a "motherboard" from the Computer Desktop Encyclopedia, Alan Freedman, The Computer Language Company Inc, Point Pleasant, Pa, ©1996, ISBN 0-8144-0010-8, a well respected source for computer terms and compares elements in Weiss to these definitions.

Motherboard: *The Main printed circuit board in an electronic device, which contains sockets that accept additional boards. In a personal computer, the motherboard contains the bus, CPU and coprocessor sockets, memory sockets, keyboard controller and supporting chips. Chips that control the video display, serial port and parallel ports, mouse and disk drives may or may not be present on the*

motherboard. If not, they are independent controllers that are plugged into an expansion slot on the motherboard. (page 554 of Computer Desktop Encyclopedia)

Printed Circuit Board: *A flat board that holds chips and other electronic components. The board is made of reinforced fiberglass or plastic and interconnects components via copper pathways. The main printed circuit board in a system is called a system board or motherboard, while smaller ones that plug into the slots in the main board are called boards or cards. (page 685 of Computer Desktop Encyclopedia).*

Proceeding to Weiss, in FIG. 6, three boards, a processor board 162 with a processor 168, a video expansion board and a memory expansion board are operatively coupled to the main board 164, which includes a number memory sources (ROM, RAM, FLASH, E²), system event controller, communications handler, display/sound generator (Col. 11:33-45). This architecture seems consistent with the definitions provided above describing a motherboard in that main board 164 appears to provide an interface that allows expansion boards, such as a video expansion board, to be coupled to the main board and an interface for a number of types of memory devices. Thus, Applicant believes one in the skill would interpret the main board 164 as a motherboard. Examiner agrees that the main board 164 could equate to a motherboard.

In FIG.7 of Weiss, the processor board 252 includes a number of memory sources (ROM, RAM, FLASH, E²), a communication handler, display output generator and sound output generator. It is noted that both main board 164 and processor board 252 share in common the elements of memory sources (ROM, RAM, FLASH, E²), a communication handler, display output generator and sound output generator, which Applicant considers a first indication that the processor board 252 is a motherboard. A second indication that the processor board 252 in Weiss is a motherboard may be found from the definition for **Printed Circuit Board**, cited above, which states, *the main printed circuit board in a system is called a system board or **motherboard**, while smaller ones that plug into the slots in the main board are called boards or **cards** (Emphasis added by Applicant).* In FIG. 7, Weiss shows and states that a number of cards, such as Input/Output card 22, video card 250 and sound card 260 as well as a hard drive 254, CD-ROM 256 and other peripherals can be operatively coupled to the processor board 252 (Col. 12:16-39). To applicant, this architecture in Weiss suggests that the processor board 252 is the “main printed circuit board” in the system or the “motherboard” where the video card 250, sound

card 260 and input/output card 22 are plugged into slots on the processor board 252. Another indication that processor board 252 is a motherboard is that peripheral devices, such as a hard drive 254 and CD-ROM 256 are coupled to it, which is consistent with a general personal computer architecture.

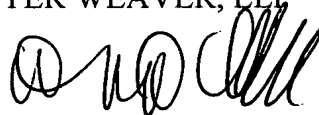
Yet another indication that the processor board 252 in Weiss is a motherboard may be found from the definition of **Motherboard**, cited above, which states that *Chips that control the video display, serial port and **parallel ports**, mouse and disk drives may or may not be present on the motherboard. If not, they are independent controllers that are plugged into an expansion slot on the motherboard* (Emphasis added by Applicant). In Fig. 7, the input/output card 22 provides a serial port and a parallel port to the gaming device (black box) 60 and is coupled to the processor board 252. To applicant, this suggests that the input/output card 22 provides the chips that control the serial port and the parallel port and is plugged into an expansion slot on processor board 252, which acts a motherboard for system 20. The Computer Desktop Encyclopedia under definition for **serial port** that *transferring files between two personal computers can be accomplished by cabling the serial ports of both machines together and using a file transfer program*. This supports Applicant's assertion that the Weiss teaches two personal computer type devices with separate motherboards.

In view this Reply Brief and the Appeal Brief, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in order for allowance and respectfully request the Board of Appeals to direct the Examiner to withdraw the Final Official Action and issue a Notice of Allowance.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth in this Appeal Brief and in this Reply Brief, it is respectfully submitted that none of the pending claims are rendered unpatentable by the patent to Weiss and the Microsoft and Newtons references. Accordingly, the pending rejections of all of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 should be reversed.

Respectfully Submitted,
BEYER WEAVER, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David P. Olynick', is written over the printed name.

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Replacement Reply Brief

Evidence Appendix

None.

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Related Proceeding Appendix

None.